

Tuesday, February 1, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Report Warns al-Qaeda is Extending 'Arc of Instability' Across Africa, Threatens to Exploit N. Africa Unrest, W. Sahara Impasse to Target US, Europe

Experts panel notes Morocco's success in fighting extremism with balanced focus on security and efforts to reduce poverty, strengthen civil society, empower citizens

Washington, DC (Feb. 1)—An international panel of experts issued a new report and their 13th annual review on terrorism at the National Press Club yesterday, concluding that al-Qaeda has suffered significant losses in its leadership in Pakistan, but has extended its reach to other parts of the world and continues to pose a very dangerous threat to the US and Europe in 2011. The annual seminar, by the International Center for Terrorism Studies (ICTS), Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, brought together US intelligence experts and Ambassadors from Spain and Morocco to examine the growing threat and changing face of international terrorism

"Of grave concern," says the new report, authored by Prof. Yonah Alexander, Director, ICTS, is that "al-Qaeda has established a safe haven and breeding ground" in the failed/fragile states of Africa that border the Sahara, tracing an "arc of instability that stretches from the Red Sea and is poised to reach to the Atlantic." The report is a one-year update of a January 2010 ICTS study documenting the chronology since 9/11 of the rising threat from al-Qaeda and other terrorists in the Maghreb and Sahel of North and West/Central Africa.

Key report highlights:

- * Al-Qaeda is poised to take advantage of the uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt "to destabilize the region."
- * Since 9/11, attacks from al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and other terrorist groups in the Maghreb and Sahel jumped 558% from their low in the period to reach a new high in 2009, and remained at dangerously high levels in 2010.
- * There is "growing evidence" that AQIM, local traffickers, and possibly Polisario members have linked with Latin cartels to traffic drugs across the Atlantic into Europe.
- * AQIM is taking advantage of the 35-year-old Western Sahara conflict for "expansion and also recruitment of hard-core Polisario members among the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria."

Panelist, Charles Allen, former Assistant Director of Central Intelligence, CIA, said, "Al-Qaeda's central leadership in Pakistan is under heavy attack and has suffered key losses. But Al-Qaeda in North and East Africa is a problem. They are determined to press their attacks, kidnappings, and ransoms on foreign nationals and countries in the region. We have to watch AQIM very closely in Tunisia."

Morocco's Ambassador to the US, Aziz Mekouar, said, "No country is immune. Terrorism can happen here in the US. It can happen in Morocco." Ambassador Mekouar detailed Morocco's comprehensive two-track approach following terrorist attacks in Casablanca in 2003. "First, we passed new laws and increased our focus on security and intelligence. Then we addressed the underlying conditions that feed extremism: working to reduce poverty, increase economic growth and investment, broaden democratic participation by individuals and civil society, and teach the real Islam, which is against violence."

Asked about the recent uprising in Egypt, Allen said he is "concerned about radical elements taking advantage of that nation's unrest," but would have to wait and see how events play out. He noted that for all countries addressing terrorism, "there has to be a balance between security and freedom of expression."

Prof. Alexander added that to effectively combat terrorism, countries need to work together and share intelligence. He said that one of the most urgent needs for enhanced cooperation is to resolve the Western Sahara dispute, which puts an obstacle between Morocco and Algeria.

* The report, "Consequences of Terrorism: Update on al-Qaeda, other terrorist threats in the Sahel & Maghreb," is at: http://www.potomac institute.org/attachments/863_2011%20REPORT%20UPDATE%20Maghreb%20%20Sahel%20Terrorism.pdf

* To view C-Span video of panel, go to: <http://www.c-span.org/Events/A-Look-at-Worldwide-Terrorism/10737419257-1/>

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The Moroccan American Center for Policy (MACP) is a non-profit organization whose principal mission is to inform opinion makers, government officials and interested publics in the United States about political and social developments in Morocco and the role being played by the Kingdom of Morocco in broader strategic developments in North Africa, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. For more, please visit www.moroccanamericanpolicy.org

*This material is distributed by the Moroccan American Center for Policy on behalf of the Government of Morocco.
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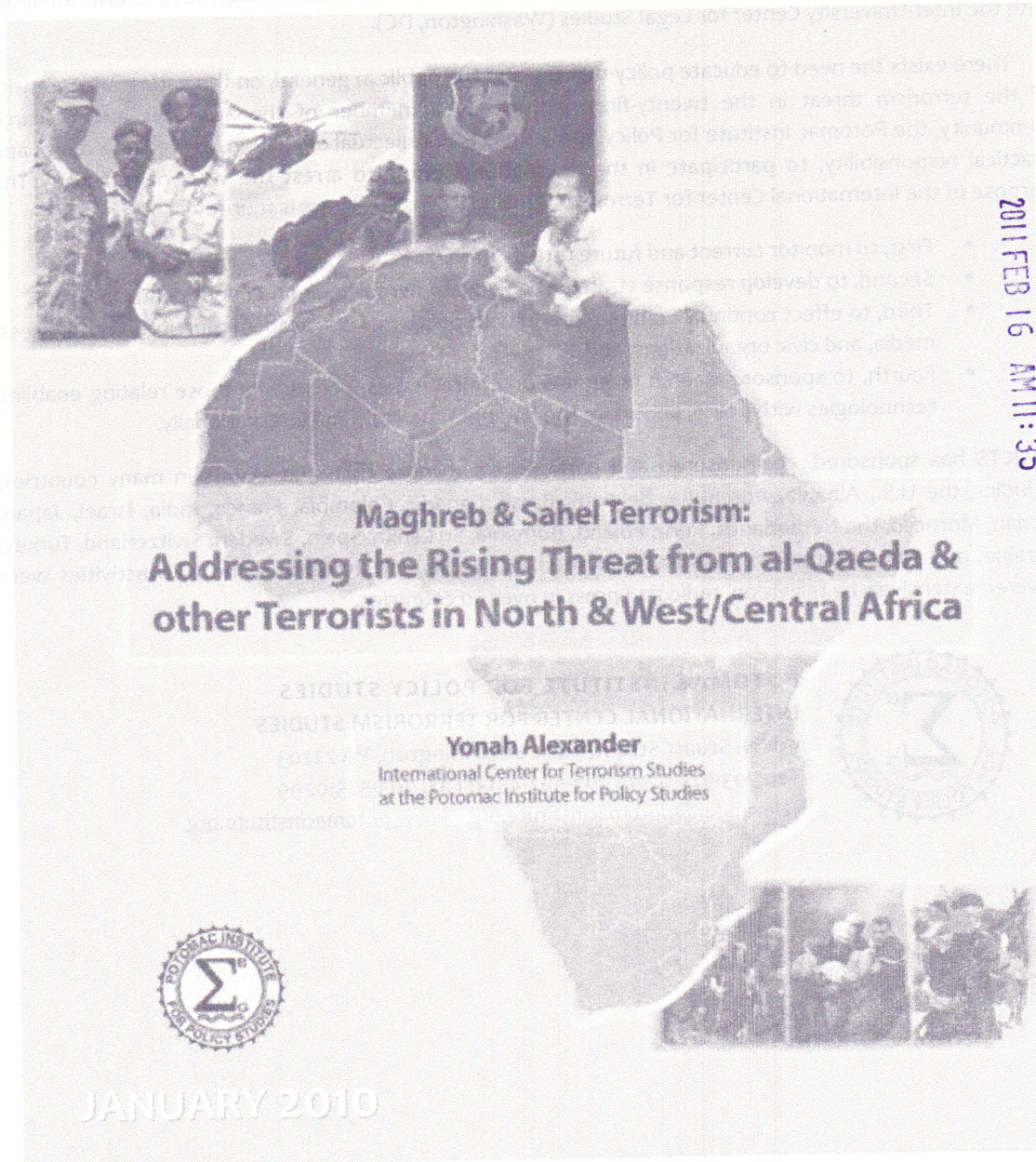
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2011 Report Update
The Consequences of Terrorism—
An Update on al-Qaeda and other Terrorist Threats
in the Sahel & Maghreb



JANUARY 2011 – One Year Later

This information has been produced by the Moroccan American Center for Policy (MACP). MACP is a registered agent of the Government of Morocco.
Additional information is available at the Justice Department in Washington, D.C.

The Consequences of Terrorism— An Update on al-Qaeda and other Terrorist Threats in the Sahel & Maghreb

A 2011 Report Update

To the January 2010 Special Report: “Maghreb & Sahel Terrorism: Addressing the Rising Threat from al-Qaeda & other Terrorists in North & West/Central Africa”

By Yonah Alexander, Director

**International Center for Terrorism Studies
at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies**

January 2011

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Manufactured in the United States of America

2011 Report Update:

The Consequences of Terrorism— An Update on al-Qaeda and other Terrorist Threats in the Sahel & Maghreb

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2011 Report Update: The Consequences of Terrorism—Update on al-Qaeda and other Terrorist Threats in the Sahel & Maghreb

Yonah Alexander

We learn from history that nothing is permanent in world affairs. Empires, nations, and people rise and decline, and others take their place. The only certainty is uncertainty and consequently a realistic analysis of factors that contribute to stability or instability of national, regional, and global security frameworks is critical.

Tragically, the Maghreb – Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia – as well as adjacent parts of the Sahel – Chad, Mali, and Niger – have emerged as one of the most worrying strategic challenges to the international community, and yet for decades these regions have mostly been neglected by United States diplomacy. Consider, for example, the empirical data generated since September 11, 2001.

Terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and other extremist groups in both the Maghreb and Sahel increased 558% from their low during the period to a new high of 204 attacks in 2009, and remain dangerously high, with 178 in 2010. Thus, over the past nine years, more than 1,100 terrorist bombings, murders, kidnappings, and ambushes against both domestic and international targets have claimed almost 2,000 lives and 6,000 victims of violence. Moreover, according to open intelligence sources and a recent fact-finding trip to the region in January 2011, there exists growing evidence that AQIM, local traffickers, and possibly members of the Polisario are forming links with Latin American organized criminal groups for trafficking drugs and humans via transit networks into Europe.

What is particularly of grave concern is that AQIM, jointly with the other al-Qaeda affiliates (e.g. al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula – AQAP – operating in Yemen, as well as al-Shabaab members in Somalia) currently and for the foreseeable future, represent a most dangerous threat both regionally and inter-regionally. Clearly in the failed and fragile states bordering the Sahara, al-Qaeda has established a safe haven and breeding ground for its activities.

Two major concerns feed into this arc of instability that stretches from the Red Sea and is poised to reach to the Atlantic. First, is the lingering 35-year old Western Sahara conflict, which is creating an opening for AQIM's expansion and also recruitment of hard-core Polisario members among the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria, further complicating the viability of a diplomatic resolution for the Western Sahara issue.

And second, the sudden and explosive recent popular street protests in Tunisia that ousted the authoritarian President, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, who had ruled the country for 23 years, open up the possibility that al-Qaeda will attempt to take advantage of the unfolding drama in its effort to destabilize the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The key insights and recommendations underlined in that study appear even more relevant, and urgent, a year later. They include the following steps that should be given close consideration by US policy makers and the international community in general:

1. Develop a comprehensive program in the affected countries to increase public awareness concerning the nature of jihadist terrorism as a form of low-intensity warfare being waged against the Maghreb and Sahel; how it affects the local populations; how it diverts resources away from economic development; and how it constrains political open space.
2. Strengthen the US intelligence mechanisms in order to provide more effective collection and analysis of data related to terrorist activities by al-Qaeda and other extremists in the region and beyond. And ensure that the information is used effectively by cooperating bodies in the region through providing equipment, training, and monitoring assistance.
3. Deny supporters of Islamic extremism in the Maghreb, Sahel, and elsewhere the capacity and freedom to engage in propaganda through effective information countermeasures, investments in local development, and open channels of communication with local leaders.
4. Expand US counterterrorism technical assistance to the area, particularly training for internal security bodies, police agencies, and the military, particularly under the umbrella of multilateral working groups to provide for adequate monitoring and transparency.
5. Encourage the governments in the region to continue with a “carrot-and-stick” approach, and with their efforts improve the economic and social conditions in these countries.
6. Improve the level of security coordination between the countries in the region so they can more effectively share intelligence and interdict terrorist networks and supply lines on the ground. Also improve the levels of economic cooperation between the nations in the region to spur increased trade and commerce that contributes to economic growth and reduces poverty as an underlying factor in fueling social unrest and extremism. Both security and economic cooperation in the Maghreb and Sahel would no doubt be enhanced by a resolution to the decades-old Western Sahara dispute, which continues to drive a wedge between two of the region’s most influential nations – Morocco and Algeria.
7. Face the intellectual challenge of radical Islam directly with “home-grown” religious and intellectual leaders who are able to challenge the misuse of Islam and channel religious tendencies into more productive social development opportunities.
8. Raise the diplomatic, economic, political, and military costs to Iran high enough to outweigh the benefits of supporting terrorism and exporting jihadist terrorism elsewhere.

In sum, a coherent and firm US policy vis-à-vis the threats of terrorism in Maghreb and Sahel would increase domestic public understanding and support in the US for sustained engagement with the nations of North and West/Central Africa. The updated documents incorporated in this report, particularly the statistical tables and terrorism chronology covering the period September 11, 2001 – December 31, 2010 make it clear that constructive and sustained engagement is vital, employing both “hard” (security, military, intelligence cooperation) and “soft” elements (economic and social development creating employment opportunities, education that equips students/trainees for jobs, and reduction of religious radicalism). Otherwise, the US, the EU, and our friends in the region will remain hostages to, and targets of, these ideological, theological, and political terrorists for the remainder of the 21st century.

INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM IN MAGHREB & SAHEL:

Chronology from Sept. 11, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2010 — (Updated with 2010 incidents below)

For full listing from 9/11/01 to 12/31/09, go to: http://www.potomac institute.org/attachments/524_Maghreb%20Terrorism%20report.pdf

2010

December 27, 2010

Shepherd wounded by bomb on path in Adekar near Takamra, Tizi Ouzou.
<http://www.spectre-international.com/documents/December2010IncidentsReport.pdf>

December 25, 2010

Soldier killed, 3 police & 1 soldier injured by terrorists in Dellys, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/kabyli e/boumerdes/un-militaire-tue-et-trois-policiers-blesses-dans-un-accrochage-a-dellys-25-12-2010-104412_146.php

December 25, 2010

Terrorist bomb damages building under construction at communal guard headquarters, Aghribs, Tizi Ouzou. No injuries.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/12/27/newsbrief-01

December 24, 2010

Shepherd assassinated by armed group in Taffessour, Sidi Bel Abbès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/un-berger-assassine-a-tafessour-26-12-2010-104518_109.php

December 23, 2010

Bomb, gunfire targets military convoy near Tala Bounana, Béni Douala, Tizi Ouzou. No injuries from terrorist attack.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/kabyli e/tiziouzu/tizi-ouzu-un-convol-militaire-attaque-pres-de-beni-douala-24-12-2010-104308_144.php

December 23, 2010

An IED exploded in Takamra, Adekar, wounding 1 civilian.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/kabyli e/bajaia/adekar-explosion-d-une-bombe-a-takamra-27-12-2010-104596_143.php

December 11, 2010

Bomb targeting soldiers exploded at army base Cap Djinet, Boumerdès. No injuries.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/huit-personnes-arretees-a-cap-djinet-pour-appartenance-a-un-groupe-arme_13293.html

Algeria

December 11, 2010

4 gendarmes wounded in terrorist attack in Al Ardja, Cap Djinet, Boumerdès.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/quatre-gendarmes-blesses-dans-une-attaque-pres-de-cap-djinet_13292.html

December 10, 2010

Armed terrorists attempted to kidnap a businessman from Freha, Tizi Ouzou. The assailants hijacked his vehicle, but fortunately he was able to escape.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/tizi-ouzu-un-bar-attaque-et-une-tentative-de-kidnapping-avortee_13285.html

December 9, 2010

A businessman was kidnapped by five armed men in Yakourene, Tizi Ouzou.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/un-commercant-enleve-a-tizi-ouzu_13270.html

November 29, 2010

Chief of national gendarmerie in Legata seriously wounded in a terrorist bomb attack in Ouled Ziane, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/boumerdes-un-chef-de-brigade-de-la-gendarmerie-grievement-blesse-et-deux-terroristes-elimines-30-11-2010-101076_108.php

November 29, 2010

4 soldiers killed in clash with terrorists in Tenès, Chlef. 2 communal guards and another soldier were also wounded.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/11/30/newsbrief-01

November 28, 2010

Bomb targets official convoy in Issers, Boumerdès. No one in delegation injured, but explosion injures 3 civilians nearby.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/attentat-manque-contre-une-delegation-officielle-a-thenia-boumerdes-28-11-2010-100793_108.php

November 27, 2010

2 communal guards were wounded in second bomb explosion in Beni Ouguig, Haraza, Bordj Bou Arréidj.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/un-garde-communal-et-un-patriote-tues-a-bordj-bou-arreridj_13125.html

November 27, 2010

2 communal guards killed by bomb in Beni Ouguig, Haraza, Bordj Bou Arréidj.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/un-garde-communal-et-un-patriote-tues-a-bordj-bou-arreridj_13125.html

November 26, 2010

1 civilian killed, 3 injured by roadside bomb in Zerrif El Ouaer, Tébessa.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/11/28/newsbrief-01

November 26, 2010

6 soldiers, 2 gendarmes were wounded by terrorists in Ammal, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/deux-gendarmes-et-six-militaires-blesses-a-boumerdes-27-11-2010-100630_108.php

November 26, 2010

Bomb injures 2 gendarmes, 6 soldiers in Cap Djenet, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/deux-gendarmes-et-six-militaires-blesses-a-boumerdes-27-11-2010-100630_108.php

November 20, 2010

Communal guard member assassinated by armed group. Souk el Tenine, Ain Defla.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/deux-terroristes-abattus-a-boudouaou-et-un-garde-communal-assassine-a-ain-defla_13078.html

November 16, 2010

A soldier was wounded in a bomb explosion in Bir H'mam, Sidi Bel Abbès.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/incursion-terroriste-le-jour-de-l-aid-a-bir-h-mam-sidi-bel-abbes-17-11-2010-99299_108.php

November 16, 2010

3 gendarmes were wounded in a bomb explosion Lakhdaria, Bouira.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/trois-gendarmes-blesses-dans-un-attentat-a-la-bombe-a-lakhdaria_13056.html

November 14, 2010

Roadside bomb kills 1, injures 3 in Oued El Ouarek, between Djelfa and M'Sila.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/11/15/newsbrief-01

TIMELINE: Terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel - 2010

September 21, 2010

Bomb in Bordj Ménail, Boumerdès kills 2 policemen and wounds 10 civilians.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/09/21/newsbrief-01

September 19, 2010

2 Patriots and military officer wounded in bomb explosion in El Aouana, Jijel.
<http://www.l'expressiondz.com/article/2/2010-09-20/80803.html>

September 14, 2010

Security forces defuse bomb at gendarme outpost in El Hamma, Khenchela.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/centre/actu-est/une-bombe-artisanale-desamorcee-15-09-2010-90181_221.php

September 13, 2010

1 killed, 2 others severely injured in a terrorist attack in Maghnia, Tlemcen.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/ouest/tlemcen/une-personne-egorgee-et-deux-autres-grievement-blesees-a-maghnia-tlemcen-14-09-2010-90096_139.php

September 13, 2010

Communal guard member killed, 3 injured by terrorists in Dhéhira, Thlejen, Tébessa.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/un-garde-communal-tue-dans-une-embuscade-terroriste-a-tebessa-13-09-2010-89998_108.php

September 11, 2010

Bomb injures 2 soldiers in Akfadou, Béjaïa.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/deux-militaires-blesees-12-09-2010-89702_109.php

September 8, 2010

Terrorists attack communal guard unit in Ihassamen, Naciria, Boumerdès, no injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/boumerdes-09-09-2010-89503_109.php

September 7, 2010

3 gendarmes were injured in a terrorist attack in Souk El Had, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/boumerdes-09-09-2010-89503_109.php

September 6, 2010

Security forces diffused bomb during an ANP operation in Ammal, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/une-bombe-artisanale-desamorcee-et-douze-suspects-arretes-08-09-2010-89337_109.php

September 6, 2010

Security forces defuse bomb targeting ANP convoy in Bordj Menaïel, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/une-bombe-artisanale-desamorcee-et-douze-suspects-arretes-08-09-2010-89337_109.php

September 6, 2010

3 communal guards killed, 2 injured in terrorist attack in Bin El Ouidène, Skikda.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/trois-gardes-communales-assassines-dans-un-attentat-07-09-2010-89190_109.php

September 5, 2010

2 soldiers killed, 3 others seriously wounded by bomb in Frahna, Tébessa.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/deux-militaires-tues-dans-l-explosion-d-une-bombe-07-09-2010-89193_109.php

September 4, 2010

7 armed Islamists set up false roadblock near Ouadias to Taguement Ladjid, Tizi Ouzou. Rob passing cars, no injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/faux-barrage-aux-ouadhas-05-09-2010-88941_109.php

September 2, 2010

Civilian injured at a false roadblock set up by terrorists in Boghni, Tizi Ouzou.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/un-citoyen-blese-dans-un-faux-barrage-a-boghni-03-09-2010-88770_109.php

September 1, 2010

Terrorists attack judicial police headquarters in Tizirt, Tizi Ouzou. No injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/lambpj-de-tizirt-attaquee-a-la-roquette-artisanale-02-09-2010-88594_109.php

September 1, 2010

Suicide car bomb attacks military convoy in Zaatra, Boumerdès, kills 2, wounds 9.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/attentat-kamikaze-a-zemmouri-boumerdes-2-morts-et-9-neufs-blesees-01-09-2010-88478_109.php

August 31, 2010

Terrorist attack kills 1 civilian, injures 1 police, 7 civilians in El Abadia, Ain Defla.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/incursion-terroriste-a-ain-defla-un-mort-et-huit-blesees-01-09-2010-88461_109.php

August 29, 2010

Bomb in Tagma, Yakouren, Tizi Ouzou, wounds military officer, destroys vehicle, damages cars nearby. No one takes credit.
<https://wits.nctc.gov>

August 29, 2010

IED wounds 2 guards in Kadiria, Bouira.
<http://www.spectre-international.com/documents/W-35-22ndto29thAugust2010.pdf>

August 28, 2010

Terrorist attack military vehicle in Aghribs, Tizi Ouzou, kill 1 soldier, wound 2.
<http://www.spectre-international.com/documents/W-35-22ndto29thAugust2010.pdf>

August 26, 2010

A bomb exploded in Tizirt, Tizi Ouzou. No one was wounded.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/en-bref-29-08-2010-88025_109.php

August 24, 2010

IED explodes in Ghrab, Tébessa. No injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/explosion-d-une-bombe-artisanale-26-08-2010-87643_109.php

August 24, 2010

Retired Algerian customs officer believed kidnapped in June attack on 11 gendarmes Mali-Algeria border executed by AQIM.
http://www.jeuneafrique.com/Article/ARTJ_AWEB20100825155537/algerie-terrorisme-al-qaida-aqmi-aqmi-execute-un-douanier-retenue-en-otage-depuis-deux-mois.html

August 24, 2010

Kidnapped father/son found with throats slit in Ouzina, Ain Rich, M'sila. 3rd murder in region in week. AQIM's believed culprit.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/deux-citoyens-egorges-a-m-sila-24-08-2010-87349_109.php

August 23, 2010

Bomb injures 3 people in El Aouana, Jijel.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/un-convoy-de-transport-de-fonds-cible-par-des-terroristes-a-el-aouana-jijel-23-08-2010-87270_108.php

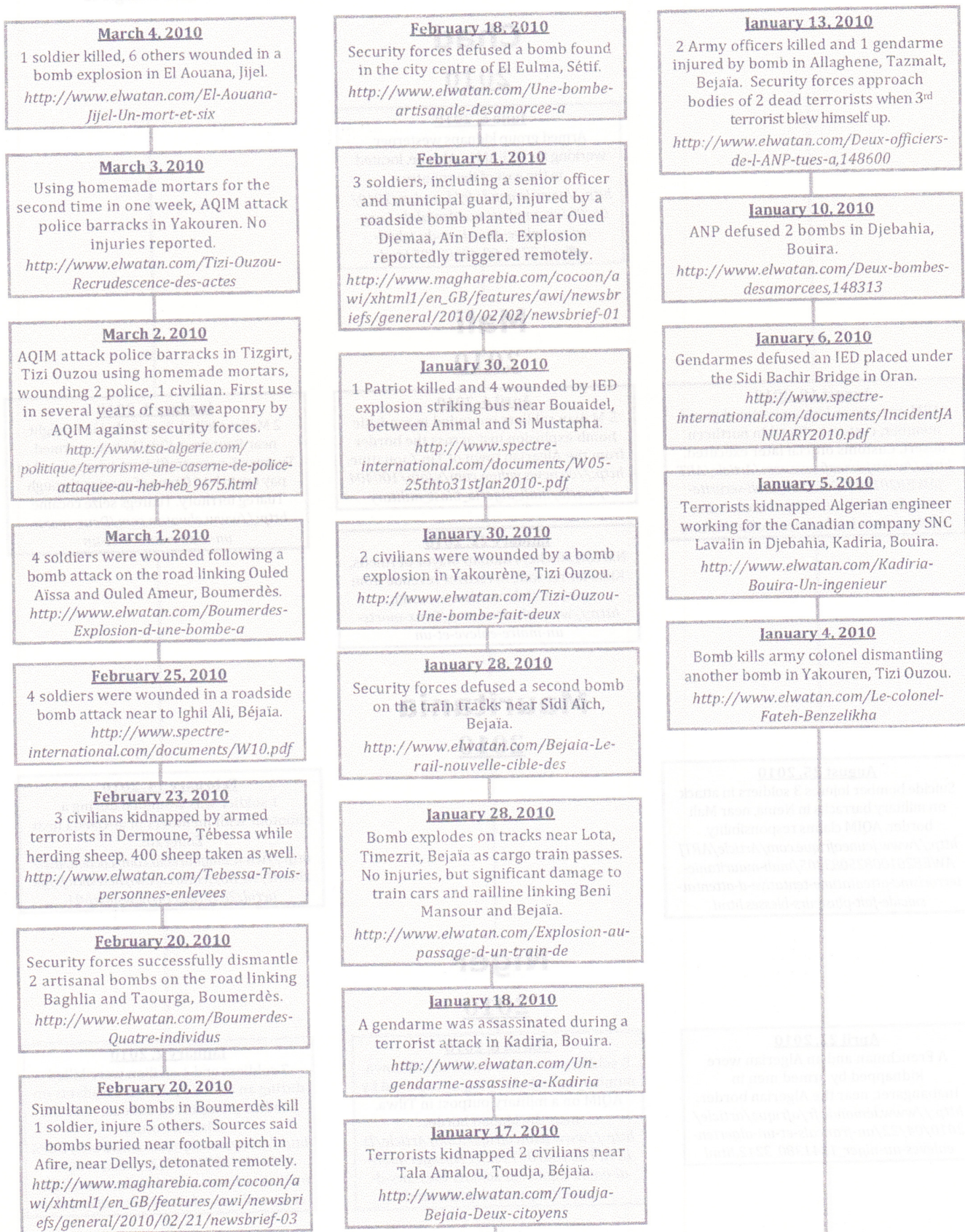
August 22, 2010

Bomb targets police convoy escorting foreign workers, Texanna, Jijel. No injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/explosion-d-une-bombe-a-texanna-jijel-23-08-2010-87231_109.php

August 21, 2010

2 police officers killed, 1 wounded at Rass El Oued, Bordj Bou Arreridj in shootout with terrorist, who was killed in incident.
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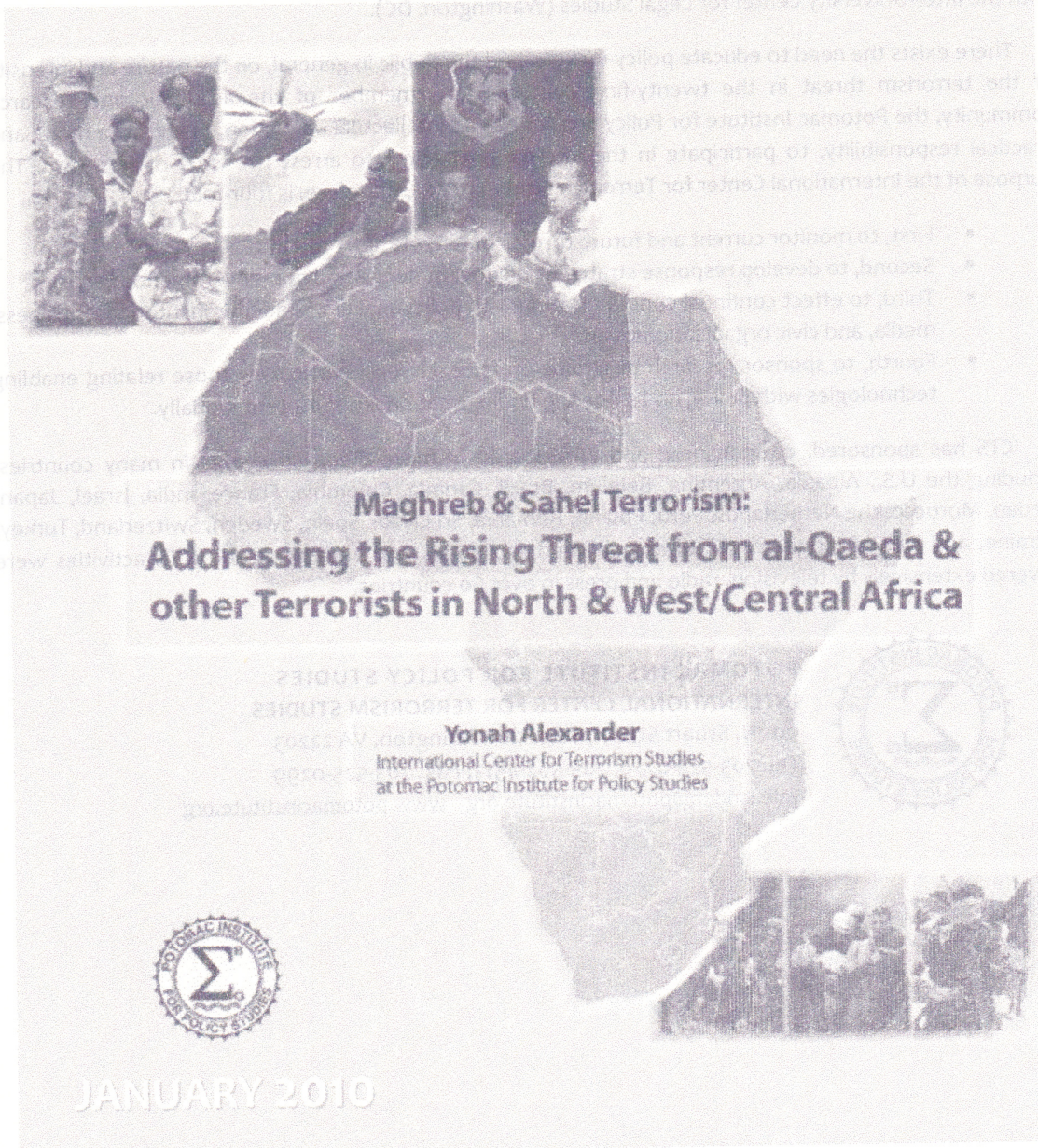
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2011 Report Update

The Consequences of Terrorism— An Update on al-Qaeda and other Terrorist Threats in the Sahel & Maghreb



JANUARY 2011 – One Year Later

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A 2011 Report Update

To the January 2010 Special Report: “Maghreb & Sahel Terrorism: Addressing the Rising Threat from al-Qaeda & other Terrorists in North & West/Central Africa”

**By Yonah Alexander, Director
International Center for Terrorism Studies
at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies**

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2011 Report Update:

The Consequences of Terrorism—Update on al-Qaeda and other Terrorist Threats in the Sahel & Maghreb

Yonah Alexander

We learn from history that nothing is permanent in world affairs. Empires, nations, and people rise and decline, and others take their place. The only certainty is uncertainty and consequently a realistic analysis of factors that contribute to stability or instability of national, regional, and global security frameworks is critical.

Tragically, the Maghreb – Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, and Tunisia – as well as adjacent parts of the Sahel – Chad, Mali, and Niger – have emerged as one of the most worrying strategic challenges to the international community, and yet for decades these regions have mostly been neglected by United States diplomacy. Consider, for example, the empirical data generated since September 11, 2001.

Terrorist attacks by al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and other extremist groups in both the Maghreb and Sahel increased 558% from their low during the period to a new high of 204 attacks in 2009, and remain dangerously high, with 178 in 2010. Thus, over the past nine years, more than 1,100 terrorist bombings, murders, kidnappings, and ambushes against both domestic and international targets have claimed almost 2,000 lives and 6,000 victims of violence. Moreover, according to open intelligence sources and a recent fact-finding trip to the region in January 2011, there exists growing evidence that AQIM, local traffickers, and possibly members of the Polisario are forming links with Latin American organized criminal groups for trafficking drugs and humans via transit networks into Europe.

What is particularly of grave concern is that AQIM, jointly with the other al-Qaeda affiliates (e.g. al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula – AQAP – operating in Yemen, as well as al-Shabaab members in Somalia) currently and for the foreseeable future, represent a most dangerous threat both regionally and inter-regionally. Clearly in the failed and fragile states bordering the Sahara, al-Qaeda has established a safe haven and breeding ground for its activities.

Two major concerns feed into this arc of instability that stretches from the Red Sea and is poised to reach to the Atlantic. First, is the lingering 35-year old Western Sahara conflict, which is creating an opening for AQIM's expansion and also recruitment of hard-core Polisario members among the Sahrawi refugee camps in Algeria, further complicating the viability of a diplomatic resolution for the Western Sahara issue.

And second, the sudden and explosive recent popular street protests in Tunisia that ousted the authoritarian President, Zine el-Abidine Ben Ali, who had ruled the country for 23 years, open up the possibility that al-Qaeda will attempt to take advantage of the unfolding drama in its effort to destabilize the region.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The key insights and recommendations underlined in that study appear even more relevant, and urgent, a year later. They include the following steps that should be given close consideration by US policy makers and the international community in general:

1. Develop a comprehensive program in the affected countries to increase public awareness concerning the nature of jihadist terrorism as a form of low-intensity warfare being waged against the Maghreb and Sahel; how it affects the local populations; how it diverts resources away from economic development; and how it constrains political open space.
2. Strengthen the US intelligence mechanisms in order to provide more effective collection and analysis of data related to terrorist activities by al-Qaeda and other extremists in the region and beyond. And ensure that the information is used effectively by cooperating bodies in the region through providing equipment, training, and monitoring assistance.
3. Deny supporters of Islamic extremism in the Maghreb, Sahel, and elsewhere the capacity and freedom to engage in propaganda through effective information countermeasures, investments in local development, and open channels of communication with local leaders.
4. Expand US counterterrorism technical assistance to the area, particularly training for internal security bodies, police agencies, and the military, particularly under the umbrella of multilateral working groups to provide for adequate monitoring and transparency.
5. Encourage the governments in the region to continue with a “carrot-and-stick” approach, and with their efforts improve the economic and social conditions in these countries.
6. Improve the level of security coordination between the countries in the region so they can more effectively share intelligence and interdict terrorist networks and supply lines on the ground. Also improve the levels of economic cooperation between the nations in the region to spur increased trade and commerce that contributes to economic growth and reduces poverty as an underlying factor in fueling social unrest and extremism. Both security and economic cooperation in the Maghreb and Sahel would no doubt be enhanced by a resolution to the decades-old Western Sahara dispute, which continues to drive a wedge between two of the region’s most influential nations – Morocco and Algeria.
7. Face the intellectual challenge of radical Islam directly with “home-grown” religious and intellectual leaders who are able to challenge the misuse of Islam and channel religious tendencies into more productive social development opportunities.
8. Raise the diplomatic, economic, political, and military costs to Iran high enough to outweigh the benefits of supporting terrorism and exporting jihadist terrorism elsewhere.

In sum, a coherent and firm US policy vis-à-vis the threats of terrorism in Maghreb and Sahel would increase domestic public understanding and support in the US for sustained engagement with the nations of North and West/Central Africa. The updated documents incorporated in this report, particularly the statistical tables and terrorism chronology covering the period September 11, 2001 – December 31, 2010 make it clear that constructive and sustained engagement is vital, employing both “hard” (security, military, intelligence cooperation) and “soft” elements (economic and social development creating employment opportunities, education that equips students/trainees for jobs, and reduction of religious radicalism). Otherwise, the US, the EU, and our friends in the region will remain hostages to, and targets of, these ideological, theological, and political terrorists for the remainder of the 21st century.

INCIDENTS OF TERRORISM IN MAGHREB & SAHEL:

Chronology from Sept. 11, 2001 to Dec. 31, 2010 — (Updated with 2010 incidents below)

For full listing from 9/11/01 to 12/31/09, go to: http://www.potomac institute.org/attachments/524_Maghreb%20Terrorism%20report.pdf

2010

Algeria

December 27, 2010

Shepherd wounded by bomb on path in Adekar near Takamra, Tizi Ouzou.
<http://www.spectre-international.com/documents/December2010incidentsReport.pdf>

December 25, 2010

Soldier killed, 3 police & 1 soldier injured by terrorists in Dellys, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/kabylie/boumerdes/un-militaire-tue-et-trois-policiers-blesses-dans-un-accrochage-a-dellys-25-12-2010-104412_146.php

December 25, 2010

Terrorist bomb damages building under construction at communal guard headquarters, Aghribs, Tizi Ouzou. No injuries.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/12/27/newsbrief-01

December 24, 2010

Shepherd assassinated by armed group in Taffessour, Sidi Bel Abbès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/un-berger-assassine-a-tafessour-26-12-2010-104518_109.php

December 23, 2010

Bomb, gunfire targets military convoy near Tala Bounana, Béni Douala, Tizi Ouzou. No injuries from terrorist attack.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/kabylie/tiziouzou/tizi-ouzou-un-convoy-militaire-attaque-pres-de-beni-douala-24-12-2010-104308_144.php

December 23, 2010

An IED exploded in Takamra, Adekar, wounding 1 civilian.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/kabylie/bajaia/adekar-explosion-d-une-bombe-a-takamra-27-12-2010-104596_143.php

December 11, 2010

Bomb targeting soldiers exploded at army base Cap Djinet, Boumerdès. No injuries.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/huit-personnes-arretees-a-cap-djinet-pour-appartenance-a-un-groupe-arme_13293.html

December 11, 2010

4 gendarmes wounded in terrorist attack in Al Ardja, Cap Djinet, Boumerdès.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/quatre-gendarmes-blesses-dans-une-attaque-pres-de-cap-djinet_13292.html

December 10, 2010

Armed terrorists attempted to kidnap a businessman from Freha, Tizi Ouzou. The assailants hijacked his vehicle, but fortunately he was able to escape.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/tizi-ouzou-un-bar-attaque-et-une-tentative-de-kidnapping-avortee_13285.html

December 9, 2010

A businessman was kidnapped by five armed men in Yakourene, Tizi Ouzou.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/un-commercant-enleve-a-tizi-ouzou_13270.html

November 29, 2010

Chief of national gendarmerie in Legata seriously wounded in a terrorist bomb attack in Ouled Ziane, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/boumerdes-un-chef-de-brigade-de-la-gendarmerie-grievement-blesse-et-deux-terroristes-elimines-30-11-2010-101076_108.php

November 29, 2010

4 soldiers killed in clash with terrorists in Tenès, Chlef. 2 communal guards and another soldier were also wounded.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/11/30/newsbrief-01

November 28, 2010

Bomb targets official convoy in Issers, Boumerdès. No one in delegation injured, but explosion injures 3 civilians nearby.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/attentat-manque-contre-une-delegation-officielle-a-thenia-boumerdes-28-11-2010-100793_108.php

November 27, 2010

2 communal guards were wounded in second bomb explosion in Beni Ouguigues, Haraza, Bordj Bou Arréidj.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/un-garde-communal-et-un-patriote-tues-a-bordj-bou-arredij_13125.html

November 27, 2010

2 communal guards killed by bomb in Beni Ouguigues, Haraza, Bordj Bou Arréidj.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/un-garde-communal-et-un-patriote-tues-a-bordj-bou-arredij_13125.html

November 26, 2010

1 civilian killed, 3 injured by roadside bomb in Zerrif El Ouaer, Tébessa.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/11/28/newsbrief-01

November 26, 2010

6 soldiers, 2 gendarmes were wounded by terrorists in Ammal, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/deux-gendarmes-et-six-militaires-blesses-a-boumerdes-27-11-2010-100630_108.php

November 26, 2010

Bomb injures 2 gendarmes, 6 soldiers in Cap Djenet, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/deux-gendarmes-et-six-militaires-blesses-a-boumerdes-27-11-2010-100630_108.php

November 20, 2010

Communal guard member assassinated by armed group. Souk el Tenine, Ain Defla.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/deux-terroristes-abattus-a-boudouaou-et-un-garde-communal-assassine-a-ain-defla_13078.html

November 16, 2010

A soldier was wounded in a bomb explosion in Bir H'mam, Sidi Bel Abbès.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/incursion-terroriste-le-jour-de-l-aid-a-bir-h-mam-sidi-bel-abbes-17-11-2010-99299_108.php

November 16, 2010

3 gendarmes were wounded in a bomb explosion Lakhdaria, Bouira.
http://www.tsa-algerie.com/divers/trois-gendarmes-blesses-dans-un-attentat-a-la-bombe-a-lakhdaria_13056.html

November 14, 2010

Roadside bomb kills 1, injures 3 in Oued El Ouarek, between Djelfa and M'Sila.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/11/15/newsbrief-01

TIMELINE: Terrorist attacks in the Maghreb and Sahel - 2010

September 21, 2010

Bomb in Bordj Ménail, Boumerdès kills 2 policemen and wounds 10 civilians.
http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml1/en_GB/features/awi/newsbriefs/general/2010/09/21/newsbrief-01

September 19, 2010

2 Patriots and military officer wounded in bomb explosion in El Aouana, Jijel.
<http://www.lexpressiondz.com/article/2/2010-09-20/80803.html>

September 14, 2010

Security forces defuse bomb at gendarme outpost in El Hamma, Khenchela.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/ouest/actu-est/une-bombe-artisanale-desamorcee-15-09-2010-90181_221.php

September 13, 2010

1 killed, 2 others severely injured in a terrorist attack in Maghnia, Tlemcen.
http://www.elwatan.com/regions/ouest/tlemcen/une-personne-egorgee-et-deux-autres-grievement-blessees-a-maghnia-tlemcen-14-09-2010-90096_139.php

September 13, 2010

Communal guard member killed, 3 injured by terrorists in Dhéhira, Thlejen, Tébessa.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/un-garde-communal-tue-dans-une-embuscade-terroriste-a-tebessa-13-09-2010-89998_108.php

September 11, 2010

Bomb injures 2 soldiers in Akfadou, Béjaïa.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/deux-militaires-blessees-12-09-2010-89702_109.php

September 8, 2010

Terrorists attack communal guard unit in Ihassamen, Naciria, Boumerdès, no injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/boumerdes-09-09-2010-89503_109.php

September 7, 2010

3 gendarmes were injured in a terrorist attack in Souk El Had, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/boumerdes-09-09-2010-89503_109.php

September 6, 2010

Security forces diffused bomb during an ANP operation in Ammal, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/une-bombe-artisanale-desamorcee-et-douze-suspects-arretes-08-09-2010-89337_109.php

September 6, 2010

Security forces defuse bomb targeting ANP convoy in Bordj Menaiel, Boumerdès.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/une-bombe-artisanale-desamorcee-et-douze-suspects-arretes-08-09-2010-89337_109.php

September 6, 2010

3 communal guards killed, 2 injured in terrorist attack in Bin El Ouidène, Skikda.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/trois-gardes-communales-assassines-dans-un-attentat-07-09-2010-89190_109.php

September 5, 2010

2 soldiers killed, 3 others seriously wounded by bomb in Frahna, Tébessa.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/deux-militaires-tues-dans-l-explosion-d-une-bombe-07-09-2010-89193_109.php

September 4, 2010

7 armed Islamists set up false roadblock near Ouadias to Taguemount Ladjid, Tizi Ouzou. Rob passing cars, no injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/faux-barrage-aux-ouadias-05-09-2010-88941_109.php

September 2, 2010

Civilian injured at a false roadblock set up by terrorists in Boghni, Tizi Ouzou.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/un-citoyen-blesse-dans-un-faux-barrage-a-boghni-03-09-2010-88770_109.php

September 1, 2010

Terrorists attack judicial police headquarters in Tizirt, Tizi Ouzou. No injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/la-bmpj-de-tizirt-attaquee-a-la-roquette-artisanale-02-09-2010-88594_109.php

September 1, 2010

Suicide car bomb attacks military convoy in Zaatra, Boumerdès, kills 2, wounds 9.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/attentat-kamikaze-a-zemmouri-boumerdes-2-morts-et-9-neufs-blessees-01-09-2010-88478_109.php

August 31, 2010

Terrorist attack kills 1 civilian, injures 1 police, 7 civilians in El Abadia, Ain Defla.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/incursion-terroriste-a-ain-defla-un-mort-et-huit-blessees-01-09-2010-88461_109.php

August 29, 2010

Bomb in Tagma, Yakouren, Tizi Ouzou, wounds military officer, destroys vehicle, damages cars nearby. No one takes credit.
<https://wits.nctc.gov>

August 29, 2010

IED wounds 2 guards in Kadiria, Bouira.
<http://www.spectre-international.com/documents/W-35-22ndto29thAugust2010.pdf>

August 28, 2010

Terrorist attack military vehicle in Aghribs, Tizi Ouzou, kill 1 soldier, wound 2.
<http://www.spectre-international.com/documents/W-35-22ndto29thAugust2010.pdf>

August 26, 2010

A bomb exploded in Tizirt, Tizi Ouzou. No one was wounded.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/en-bref-29-08-2010-88025_109.php

August 24, 2010

IED explodes in Ghrab, Tébessa. No injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/explosion-d-une-bombe-artisanale-26-08-2010-87643_109.php

August 24, 2010

Retired Algerian customs officer believed kidnapped in June attack on 11 gendarmes Mali-Algeria border executed by AQIM.
<http://www.jeuneafrique.com/Article/ARTJ-AWEB20100825155537/algerie-terrorisme-al-qaida-aqmi-aqmi-execute-un-douanier-retenue-en-otage-depuis-deux-mois.html>

August 24, 2010

Kidnapped father/son found with throats slit in Ouzina, Ain Rich, M'sila. 3rd murder in region in week. AQIM's believed culprit.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/deux-citoyens-egorges-a-m-sila-24-08-2010-87349_109.php

August 23, 2010

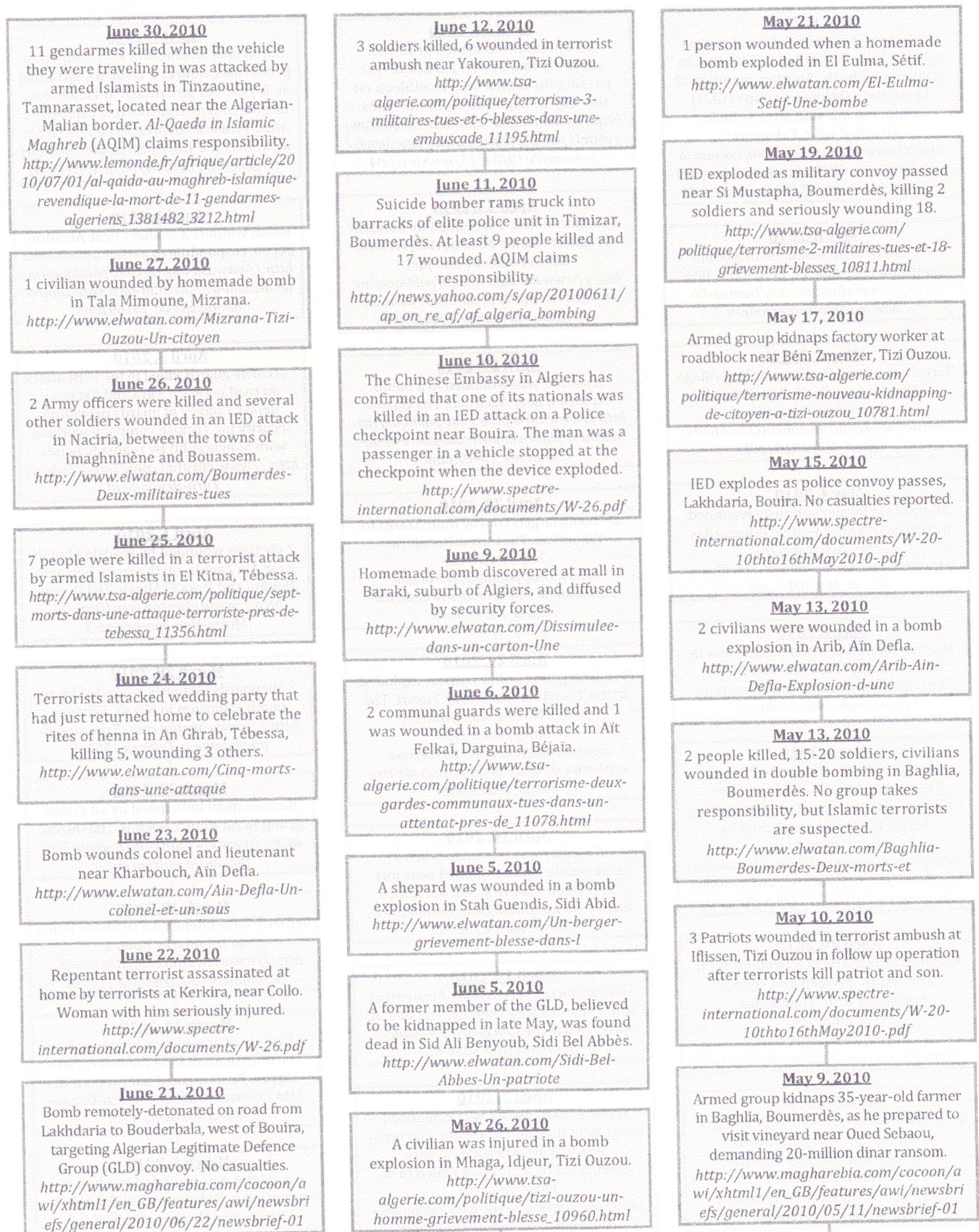
Bomb injures 3 people in El Aouana, Jijel.
http://www.elwatan.com/une/un-convoy-de-transport-de-fonds-cible-par-des-terroristes-a-el-aouana-jijel-23-08-2010-87270_108.php

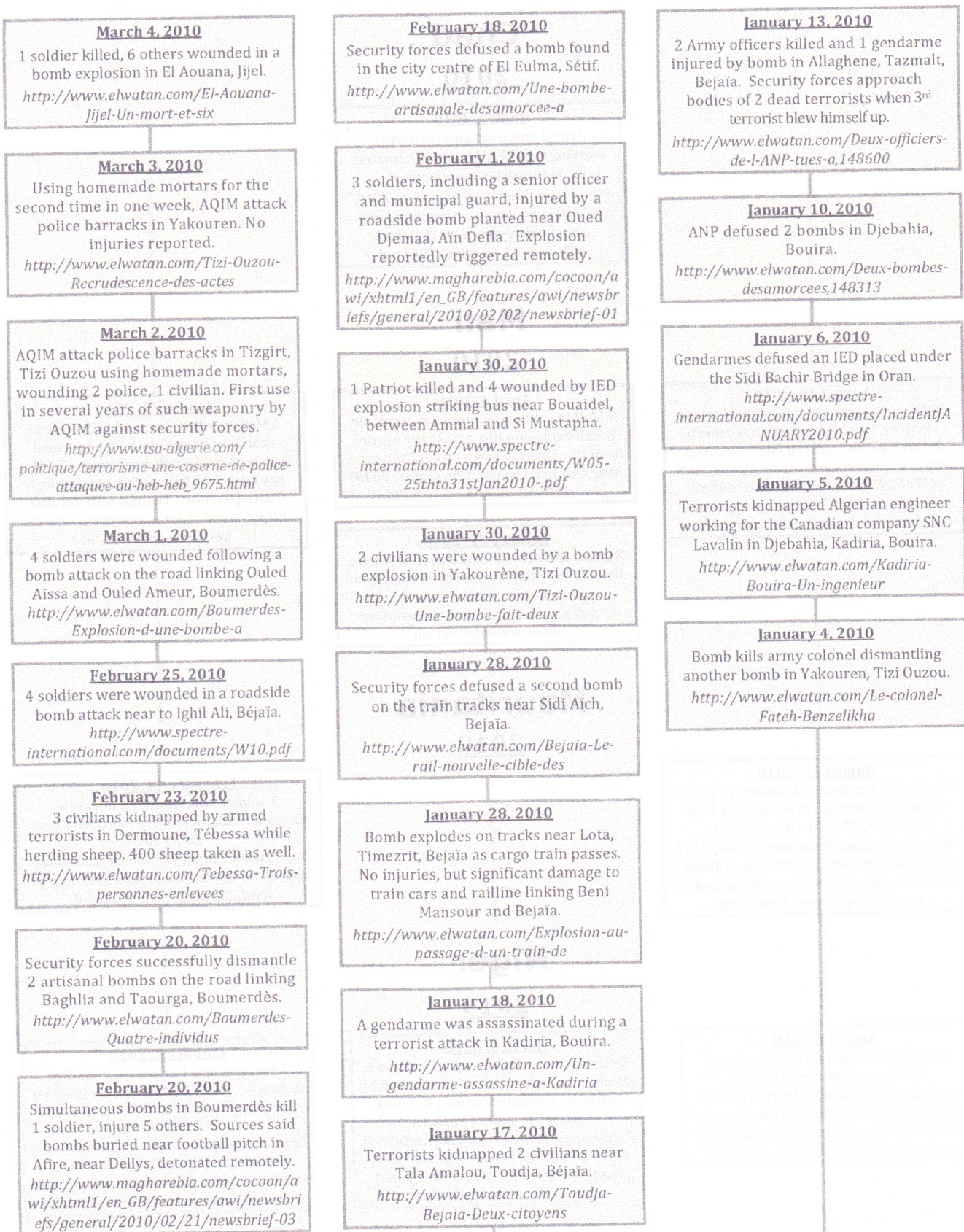
August 22, 2010

Bomb targets police convoy escorting foreign workers, Texanna, Jijel. No injuries.
http://www.elwatan.com/actualite/explosion-d-une-bombe-a-texanna-jijel-23-08-2010-87231_109.php

August 21, 2010

2 police officers killed, 1 wounded at Rass El Oued, Bordj Bou Arreridj in shootout with terrorist, who was killed in incident.
<http://www.spectre-international.com/documents/W-3416thto22ndAugust2010-.pdf>





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